MINUTES,

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

BETHLEHEM MEETING-HOUSE,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY ALA.

The 14th and 15th days of October,

1859.

MINUTES,

1st. The delegates met with the Congregation, at the arbor near Bethlehem meeting-house, Tuscaloosa County Ala. The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder B. B. Smith; From the 133d. Psalm, and 1st. verse: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

2d. After an interval of 20 minutes, the Delegates assembled in Bethlehem meeting-house, and the Association was opened by singing and prayer by the former Moderator, L. B. Harbin.

3d. Read letters from the following churches and enrolled the names of their Delegates.

4th. Delegates, who failed to attend, are marked thus: X.

Churches,	Counties,	Delegates Names,
Bethlehem	Tusca. Ala.,	Rev A. Files, L. Lee, J. McDuff,
Shepherd,	Fayette "	B.A.McCool,T. McCool,(X) J. Black
Pilgim's Rest	" "	A H Freeman,E D Rushin,G B Colins
Fayetteville,	" "	Rev. G W Eaton, (X) A F Bell; J Middleton
Hepsebeth,	" "	Rev. L B Harbin, P W Newton (X) W G Vanzant
New Bethel,	" "	J M Cuthbertson,G W Kinkenon(X) C B Estus X
Mt. Pleasant	" "	D G Kirkland, R Welch, G Lawrence (X)
Clear Springs	" "	S P.Henderson,J H Brazier J E Ayers
Mt. Joy,	" "	J Penly, (X) Y R Amason, W A Edmonds,
Providence,	Walker, Ala.	Rev B B Smith, S H Karr, Wm. Cobb,
Union,	Winston "	D C Manasco, Rev S Tyler,[X] Wm. Smith (x)
Ples'nt Grove	Walker "	D Manasco, J Guttery, A A Smith [X]
Ebenezer,	" "	Not Represented,
Jasper,	" "	Revs. J A Hill, T M Gabbart, [X] T L Reed,
Lib't Grove,	" "	Rev. J J Watts, R A Jones, E Sumner,
Lebanon,	Fayette, "	Wm. Killgore, N J Patton, H F Earnest,
New Prospect	Walker, "	Rev A Smith, M Orear, Wm. Mills (X)
Camp Spring	Fayette, "	M Rainwater, A Bobo, S M Rainwater (X)
Friendship,	" "	P Gillam, [X] R T Loftis, J M Ayers [X]
Mt. Zion,	" "	Rev. P Landford (X) J J Wheeler, P McGee[x]
Bethel,	Monroe Miss.	T L Ritter, J T Black, R Black,
Antioch,	Marion Ala.,	Rev E Chaffin, J M Trim [X] Wm. Lucas,
Bethabara,	Fayette "	E Wiggins, J H Shackleford, W L Gideon(X)
Macedonia,	" "	Not Represented,
Corrinth,	" "	Thos Morrison, E W Lawrance [X]
Shiloh,	" "	Not Represented,
Mt. Lebanon,	" "	Rev E Dodson, [X] J W Collins, (x) A Yerby.
Bethesda,	" "	W F Prater,F M Willborn,[X] W B Holland
Zion,	Maron "	Revs. A Markham, J H Spann;—D S Harris,
Pleasant Hill	" "	Not Represented,
Enon,	" "	Not Represented
Shady Grove	" "	Not Represented,
HollySprings	" "	J D Neal, J Goggins, (X) S Wigly,
Hopewell,	" "	T Tucker, T Harper, J R Tucker, [X]
Liberty,	Franklin "	M Jones, [X], B Steel, [X] E Nix, [X]
Hackleburg,	Marion "	Rev A L Dugan,[x]J W Britnell, W S Canady,
Good Springs	" "	D W Chambliss, M E Chambliss,
Hermon,	Walker, "	S Ray, (X) G Wolf, Thos. Conway, [X]
Union,	Fayette "	Silman, (X) J Moore, (X) S G Mathews.

5th. Afforded an oppertunity for the admission of churches wishing to unite with this body; when Delegates, with petitionary letters from Hermon church Walker Ala., and from Union church Fayette Ala., came forward. The letters were read and approved, and on motion said churches were cordially received, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

6th. Elected L B Harbin Moderator and Miles Rainwater, Clerk.

7th. Committees were then appointed.

1st. On arrangement of business, Jas. Middleton, *A*. Markham, and B. B. *S*mith, and on motion, the Moderator and Clerk were added.

2nd. On documents, Jas. J. Watts, *A*. F. Bell, D. Manasco; D. G. Hirkland, and S. H. Karr.

3d. On Finance, J. H. Spann, A Bobo, and G. B. Collins.

4th. To arrange preaching, T. L. Reed, J. J. Wheeler, D. S. Harris, and the Deacons of Bethlehem church.

8th. Received Correspondence from the Cannan Association; a package of minutes by her messenger (to wit:) Elder H. G. Smith, and from the Big Bear creek Association—a package of minutes, and from the Tuscaloosa Association, a letter and package of minutes by her messengers (to wit:) Elders R. Dodson, and J. R. Arnold, and brethren, John Thomas, and Thomas Smith, the correspondence was heartily received and the Moderator gave to each of the above named messengers the right hand of fellowship and invited them to seats and to participate.

9th. Returned correspondence in the following order.

To the Tuscaloosa Association,—L. B. Harbin, G. B. Collins, Jas. Middleton, B. A. McCool, and E. D. Rushing—Middleton, to write to the Canaan association,—L. B. Harbin, J. H. Spann, and H. F. Earnest—Spaun to write.

To the Big Bear creek association—A. Markham, Thos, Harper, and D. S. Harris, A. F. Bell to write.

To the Columbus association—G. W. Eaton, J. H. Shackleford, P. Land ford, and John Draper— Wm. A. Edmonds to write.

10th. After prayer by B. B. Smith,—adjourned until half after 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Saturday October the 15th 1859.

11th. Met according to adjournment; prayer by the moderator.

12. The committee to arrange the business made their report, which was adopted and the committee discharged.

13th. Read our constitution, Rules of order, and declaration of faith.

14th. Called the names of the delegates.

15th. Visiting Baptist ministers were invited to seats and to participate.

16th. The committee on documents, made their report which on motion was received and adopted as follows.

17th. Reports of the committee on documents.

1st. "We find a querry from the Camp Spring church," "Is it any where taught in the laws of Zion, that members of the church of Jesus Christ, should unite with worldly institutions, suggested by human prudance to oppose the progress of iniquity, or to correct and reform transgressors." Answer we think it does any Institution having for its object the moralizing of the community and the good of mankind.

2d. We find a querry from New Bethel Church, "We the Church of Jesus Christ send the following querry and solicit your advice, suppose the case as follows; If A. B, and one of the World in good standing be in company and A. should get drunk, or swear in the hearing of B. and the worldling tells C. a member of the church, and C. reports to the church, and the church bring the charge and cite B. the witness, to attend, who is absent and knows nothing of the report; at the next conference A. and B.

both present. A. denies the charge and B. asserts it to be true; what should be done in this case? Answer. We think the evidence of B should be taken as conclusive in the case, if corroberated by the testimony of the worldling."

3d. We find in Mt. Zion church letter that the difficulty existing between that and the Corinth church has been amicably adjusted.

4th. We find the church at Holly Springs, Hackleburg, Liberty, Antioc and Bethel prays letters of dismission, which we advise to be granted.

J. J. WATTS, *Chairman.*

19th. Received and adopted our Treasurers report as follows.

	Dr	
Amount left in Treasurers' hands last session		$15 40
Amount sent up for minutes and associational purposes at last session		64 70
Collection on sabbath		15 25
Received of Zion church for the use of D W Andrews		5 00
Total sum		$100,45
	Cr.	
Paid for Minutes	$25 00	
Clerk	15 00	
Paid L. B. Harbin at last association, through Executive board, the collection on sabbath	$15 25	
Paid A Markham per D W Andrews	5 00	
Paid corresponding messenger A Files	2 00	
Two dollars spurious and destroyed	2 00.	$100 45
Expended	64 25	64 25
Left in the hands of your Treasurer		$36 20
Indian mission fund	$2 60	
Fund for minutes and Association	33 60	
	$36 20	

M. Rainwater, Traesurer.

20. Appointed M. Rainwater Treasurer for the next associational year.

21st. The committee appointed at last association to visit the church at Mt.Zion and Corinth to investigate a difficulty existing between them, in order to its adjustment, reported the following which was concured in and adoptod "We your committee beg leave to report that we met according to appointment, and after a satisfactory investigation of the case, we were of opinion that the ordination of brother Samuel Winter was rather premature, we therefore advised the Corinth church to rescind her action in said ordination."

L. B. HARBIN, *Chairman.*

JAS. MIDDLETON, *Clerk.*

22d. Our book agents made the following report which was adopted.

"We your Book agents Invested in Denominational Books, the whole amount of book fund $37 60

and sold for cash	$18 05
To D G Kirkland	2 00
Put in the hands of R Adkins, for sale	$19 80
Put in the hands of D Manasco	$7 00
We have increased the sum by profit on Books to	$46 8
Received from R Adkins	$5 00
Received from D Manasco,	$7 00
amount of Books sold	$32 05
In the hands of R Adkins, Books unsold	$14 80
	$46 85

A F BELL, *Chairman.*

23d. A F Bell, James Middleton, and Levi Lindsey, were appointed our Book agents for the next associational year.

24th. The executive Board made their report verbally, which was adopted with her Treasurers Report, and our missionary's report annexed, said reports will show the extent of our Missionary opperations for the last year.

Report of the Treasurer of Executive Board. Received J Peoples,	$1 00
Received of sister A Moore,	2 00
By collection on sabbath at the union Meeting of 1st Dist	20 30
as collected by brother Harbin	8 80
Aggregate	$32 10
Disbursements. Paid to L B Harbin for one months servises as missionary	$25 00
Ballance in hands of the Treasurer	7 10

A F Bell, *Chairman.*

Missionary report.—"Beloved brethern, as your missionary I commenced my labors, the 22nd day of July 1859, I served one month—Traveled 408 miles—Preached 24 sermons—Delivered 24 Exhortations—Witnessed 48 professions of faith—Baptised 30 persons—Ordaned 1 Deacon—and have received $25 00 in full pay for my services, all of which is humbly submitted.

L B Harbin.

25th. The Finance Committee reported for printing minutes, and associatioual purposes $65 10; and for home mission $14 80, which was paid over into the hands of our Treasurer.

26th. M Rainwater, A Bobo, A F Bell, Jas. Middleton, L Lindsey, M. Vandiver, and D G Kirkland, were appointed to act as our Executive Board for the next year.

27th. Received appointments of Dist. meetings. 1st., District, meeting to be held with Mount Pleasant church, beginning on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in Sept, 1860. Elder A Files to preach the introductory sermon, L. B. Harbin alternate, Elder M. Blalock to preach on Sabbath 11 o'clock in defence of missions; P Landford alternate, Elder G W Eaton to preach at 1 o'clock on Sabbath, on the duty of Deacons. L B Harbin, *Ch'r:*

Jas. Middleton, *Clerk.*

2d District. The Meeting to be held with the church at Providence, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in Sept. 1860; J J Watts to preach the introductory sermon; J A Hill, alternate; J A Hill to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath in defence of Missions; B B Smith alternate.

N B.—Also appointed our next association to be held with Liberty grove Church, Walker County Ala.

David Manasco, Dist. Clerk

3d. District, The meeting to be held with the Church at Mount Lebanon begining on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in August 1860. Elder P. Landford to preach the introductory sermon; John Draper alternate; Elder Anderson Markham to preach at 11 o'clock on the Sabbath in defence of missions, S. P. Rowland alternate; Elder G. W. Eaton to preach at 1 o'clock on Sabbath on the duty of Deecons.

28. Adjorned until 1 o'clock P. M. prayer by the moderator.

EVENING SESSION.

29th. Met according to adjornment; prayer by Elder J. J. Watts.

30th. The following amendment to a resolution offered at last session recommending the several churches composing this association, hereafter. when they wish to set forward a young gift to call a Presbytery of ministers to examine, and to license him, was offerred, and on motion it was adopted as below.

31th. "Resolved that we recommend the several churches composing this association that hereafter when they wish to set forward a young gift to the ministery that they request a presbytery of Ministers to assemble with them and advise with them on the expedency of setting him forth,

32nd. Changed the Heading of our Constitution, so as to read "We the

Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ."

33rd. Postponed re-districting our Association until our next Annual Session, and attached the six remaining Churches of the 4th District to the 3rd District, for the ensuing year.

34th. The Association made up $8,45 for Indian Missions, which being added to our old Indian Mission fund as set forth in our Treasurers Report $2,60, makes the sum of $11,05 cents.

35th. Agreed to open a Correspondence with the East Alabama Baptist Convention, accordingly L. B. Harbin, A. Smith, J. J. Watts and B. B. Smith, were appointed as our Messengers to that Body, and the above sum for Indian Missions was paid into their hands to be carried, or, ferwarded by them to the Covenvention and applied to the Creek Indian Mission.

36. *Resolved:* That we advise the Ministering Brethren in our Association, to preach Missionary Sermons at stated times to the several Churches under their charge, and to take up a public collection at the close of the Sermon; and also to take pledges for the support of our Domestic Mission, and forward the amount to A. F. Bell, Treasurer of our Executive Board.

37th. Letters to Sister Associations with whom we correspond, were read approved and signed.

38th. Our next Association will be held with the Liberty-Grove Church, Walker County Alabama; commencing on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October 1860. Elder A. Markham, was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder E. Dodson, Alternate; Elder J. A. Hill, was appointed to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock in defence of Missions, G. W. Eaton, Alternate.

39th. The Letter to the Eastern Alabama Convention was read and adopted.

40th. The Association agreed to have twelve-hundred coppies of these Minutes printed, and granted the Clerk the privilege of corresponding with Printers, in order to get them printed on the best terms he can, and furthermore, ordered the Clerk to have our Constitution and Rules of Order printed with these Minutes, and that he reserve for Correspondence to Sister Associations, and for the Eastern Alabama Convention of Baptists 125 coppies.

41st. The Clerk for preparing for press, superintending the printing and distribution of the Minutes, to have $15,00 for services.

42nd. Moved and adopted that each Correspondent receive for his services in carrying out our correspondence the past year $1,00 per day.

43rd. Destributing agents were appointed; 1st District, L. B. Harbin; 2nd Disiriet, J. J. Watts; 3rd District, A. Markham.

44th. Changed the time of our Annual Meeting from Friday to Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October.

45th. Called the names of the Delegates and marked absentees.

46th. Read and corrected the Minutes of the present Session.

47th. *Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to Bethlehem Church, and to the brethren and friends in her vicinity, for the kindness they have shown towards us during the present Session of our Association.

48th. Adjourned to meet with Liberty-Grove Church, on Saturday before the 3rd Lords day in October 1860. Prayer by Elder Reuben Dodson.

L. B. HARBIN, *Moderator.*

MILES RAINWATER, *Clerk.*

SABBATH.

Prayer Meeting commenced at the Stand at 9 o'clock, at 11 o'clock Elder L. B. Harbin, delivered a discourse on the subject of Missions, from 1st Corinthians 8th chap. 13 & 14 verses, at the close of which there was taken up $25,50 for domestic Mission. Sunday night Elder J. J. Watts, preach-

ed at early candle-lighting, followed by Elder J. R. Arnold. The brethren preached with much zeal, the congregation was large and attentive and we hope much good will be the result.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH-RIVER BAPTIST ASSOSIATION.

We, the Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ are desirous of a reciprocal union; we therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of the assoiciation, according to the following plan.

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregrational form of church government should be inviolably preserved, yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious councils on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love, we hold it to be the duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles to the advice of the association.

1st. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to seats, the letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: The number in fellowship, the number received by Baptism, by restoration, dissmissed, excommunicated and dead since the last association, which letters shall be read and the delegats names enrolled.

2nd. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North-River Baptist Association.

3rd. We declare ourselves a Missionary Body on the following plan.—The association may appoint an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel to the destitute in her bounds, and to enlarge their field of labor if necessary, and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all the money paid over by the several churches for the support of the Mission; also said Treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every annual Session, of this Body of all monies received expenditures, and the surplus on hand if any, which report shall be affixed to the Minutes of the association.

The association thus formed shall choose by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5th. This Body shall have no coersive power to Lord it over Gods heritage, or to infrige on any of the internal privileges or rights of the churches in our union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

6th. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be repaired to withdraw from any church or churches which they may look upon to be unsound in principle or immoral in practice until they be reclaimed.

7th. To take up no case of any church in the union without the consent of a majority of the church.

8th. Newly constituted or dismissed churches may be received into our union by their respectiyes as before stated, and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving them the right hand of fellowship.

9th. The association when convened shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10th: Every church shall be entitled to a representation of three members.

11th. To have the Minutes of the association read and altered if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the association rises and have them printed if she thinks proper.

12th. The association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members.

13th. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the Body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14th. To amend the plan or form of government at any time when a majority of the union shall deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2nd. But one person shall speak at a time and shall arise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3rd. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the question, or uses words of personal reflection.

4th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5th. Every case taken up by the association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

6th. When any question is taken up by the association after allowing time for debate. The Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays or otherwise; the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th. No person shall depart from the service of the association without leave of the Moderator.

8th. No person shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave obtained.

9th. The appellation of brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

10th. The Moderator shall be entitled the same priviledge as any other member provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

STATICTICS OF THE CHURCHES FOR 1859.

Churches.	*Pastors.*	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Associational & Minute Fund,	*Post Office.*	Sabbath of monthly meeting
Bethlehem,	A Files,			1	4	1		48	3,00	New-Lexington,	2
Shepherd,	L B Harbin,		3		11	2		46	2,50	Newtonville,	4
Pilgrims R t,	P Landford,	1	2					53	2 50	Pilgrims Rest,	3
Fayetteville,	M M Blalock,		5		1	1	1	47	4,00	Fayette C. H.,	1
Hepsebeth,	L B Harbin,	4	1	1	1	2	1	34	2,00	Handy,	2
New-Bethel,		2	7		4	2		27	1,00	Pilgrims Rest,	4
Mount Pleasant,	E Dodson,	8	4		2		1	77	3,00	Davis' Creek,	4
Clear Springs,	E Dodson,		1					16	,50	Sheffield,	3
Union,	No Pastor,							10	1,50		2
Mount Joy,		2					1	15	1.50	Sheffield,	
Providence,	L B Harbin,	31	20		1			105	5,00	York,	3
Union,	S Tyler,	1						21	1,00	Eldridge,	3
Pleasant Grove,	J J Watts,	6	9	1	2		1	77	3,00	Jasper,	2
Ebenezer,									,50	Jasper,	
Jasper,	J A Hill,		10		4			17	6.00	Jasper,	3
Liberty Grove,	J. J Watts,	3	2			1		33	2.50	Jasper,	4
Lebanon,		7	6	1	11	2		43	1,50	York	1
New Prospect,	S A Smith,	18	4		5			32	2.50	Blackwater,	1
Hermon,		15	5					29	2,50		
Camp-Spring,	A Markham,		2		7			45	2,00	Hill,	2
Friendship,	S P Rowland,		4		11	1		26	1,00	Big Pond,	4
Mount Zion,	P Landford,	4	12		5	1	1	99	2,00	Big Pond,	4
Bethabara,	S P Rowland,	18	13	1	1			63	3,00	Hill,	1
Macedonia,										Mudcreek,	
Corrinth,	S P Rowland,				14	1		15	1,35	Big Pond,	2
Shiloh,										Moscow,	
Mount Lebanon,	E Dodson,	1						38	2.00	Hesters,	1
Bethesda,	C T Wilborn,	2	1				1	18	1,00	Hill,	3
Zion,	A Markham,	24	13	1	14	3	1	106	3,00	Astons Store,	4
Pleasant-Hill,										Allens' Factory,	
Enon,										Pikeville,	
Shady Grove,										Eldridge,	3
Hopewell,	A Markham,	3	2			1		17	1,50	Palo,	2
Good Springs,			2					10	,50	Salvage, Miss.	3
Bethel,	R Adkins,						1	35	1,40	Mt. [illegible]	3
Antioch,	E Chaffin,	6	6		6	9		30	1,20	Bar[illegible]	
Holly Springs,	R Adkins,	14						51		Spruce Pine,	1
Liberty,	E Nix,	7	5	3				29	,85	Hackleburg.	
Hackleburg,		3	3	1	3	13	1	34	1,50		

Recapitulation.—Baptised 180, Received by letter 142, Restored 10, Dismissed by lett 107, Excluded 40, Died 10, Total in fellowship 1351. Contribution for Minutes and Associ tional purposes $65,10. There is belonging to the Association 24 Ordained Ministers; and licensed Preachers, viz; Wm. Farquhar, M. Keenum, W. C. Patterson, E. Nix, D. Manasco, Shackleford, W. L. Gideon and A. H. Freeman.

N. B.—The number in fellowship in those Churches not represented, in these minut taken down as per Minutes when last represented, amounts to 255, which being added to t number represented in this table, gives us 16,06 members in fellowship; those Churches L ered off are included.